

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 20-31 are pending in the application after this amendment. The amendment, cancellation, and/or addition of claims is not to be considered in any way an indication of applicants' position on the merits of the amended, cancelled, and/or added claims.

The Examiner has indicated that previously pending claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 6 therein, and has cancelled claim 6. Claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from claim 6 and are allowable for the same reasons as well as for the limitations contained therein. Applicants have made these amendments for the purpose of furthering prosecution, but reserves the right to file continuation applications. Based on these amendments, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 7-9 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,560 to Tan et al. (the "Tan reference"). The Tan reference is directed to a load balancing system for distributed printing systems such as a client/server printing system, through the use of enhanced printer attributes.

Applicants have added new independent claims 20 and 26. Claim 20 specifies "said sender printing said at least one document classification identifier on a document to be sent as a sent document using a digital scanner and transceiver" and claim 26 specifies said sender incorporating said at least one document classification identifier with a document to be sent as a sent document using a digital scanner and transceiver. In the specification, the term "digital scanner and transceiver" is defined as "a facsimile machine, a combined computer-scanner-printer, a network-enabled digital copier, or any other device or combination of devices capable of performing the functions of a facsimile machine." The Tan reference is directed to a distributed printing system through which a client sends documents to be printed. The Tan client 200 is the only sender disclosed in the Tan reference. The Tan client 200 does not print or

Application No. 09/894,645
Amendment dated February 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 20, 2005

incorporate any document classification identifier (that relates to processing steps set by the receiver) in any documents. The Tan client 200 does not send a document using a digital scanner and transceiver. As these and other limitations are not taught or suggested by the Tan reference, applicants respectfully submit that claims 20 and 26, and that claims that depend thereon, are not taught or suggested by the Tan reference and should be allowable.

The specification has been amended to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors of which applicants are aware. No new matter has been added in these amendments. It is submitted that these amendments should not be objectionable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the currently pending claims are patentable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to reexamine the application, allow the claims, and pass the application on promptly to issue.

A Petition for Extension of Time for One month is enclosed herewith.
Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees that may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Oster", is written over a horizontal line.

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